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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Director of Information

October 14, 1943

OFFICE OF INFORMATION MEMORANDUM NO. 50
Supplement 2

Classification of British and American Documents

Your attention is directed to the following revision of British Security definitions regarding classification of documents as outlined in Office of Information Memorandum No. 50, February 18, 1943:

1. British security definitions have recently been revised to establish classifications of MOST SECRET, SECRET, CONFIDENTIAL, and RESTRICTED. The continuous exchange of classified documents between American and British officials requires that all officials of the Federal Service who may at any time use or possess classified British documents understand the British classification system.

2. Under the revised system of British classification, British MOST SECRET and SECRET corresponds to United States SECRET; United States and British CONFIDENTIAL and RESTRICTED classifications are equivalent.

3. On and after October 1, 1943, all classified documents received from British sources shall be stamped or marked in the manner prescribed in paragraph 18, Army Regulation 380-5, with one of the following statements:

British MOST SECRET and SECRET equals United States SECRET
British CONFIDENTIAL equals United States CONFIDENTIAL
British RESTRICTED equals United States RESTRICTED

4. All classified documents of the United States Government being loaned or given to British officials shall be similarly marked with one of the following statements:

United States SECRET equals British MOST SECRET and SECRET
United States CONFIDENTIAL equals British CONFIDENTIAL
United States RESTRICTED equals British RESTRICTED

5. No attempt shall be made to reclassify documents issued prior to October 1, 1943. Communication material will have the same equivalents as documents generally.

6. It is emphasized that all classified British documents in use by or in the possession of military or civilian personnel of the Federal departments or agencies are to be safeguarded to the degree prescribed for United States classified documents of equivalent classification. British documents not showing the dual classification shall be safeguarded according to the United States or British classification, whichever is higher.

Keith Himebaugh

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